

REMARKS

Claims 1-60 are pending. In this Response, claims 4-7, 11, 20, 29, 31, 39, 41 and 49 have been amended.

I. SECTION 112, FIRST PARAGRAPH REJECTIONS

Claims 11-20, 29 and 31-50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Although Applicant disagrees with these rejections for the reasons set forth in the Appeal Brief, in the interests of expediting the case, claims 11, 20, 29, 31, 41 and 49 have been amended to delete the negative limitations.

Therefore, Applicant requests that these rejections be withdrawn.

II. SECTION 102/103 REJECTIONS

Claims 11-13, 18-20, 31-33, 40-43 and 49-50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over *Chen et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,168,861).

Claim 11 has been amended to recite “varying a thickness fraction of the thickness of the first magnetic layer to the thickness of the first and second magnetic layers changes the coercivity of the medium by at least 10 percent and changes the remanence of the medium by at most 5 percent.” Claim 20 has been amended to recite similar limitations. *Chen et al.* fails to teach or suggest this approach, as the Examiner apparently recognizes by allowing claim 56 and stating “Chen et al. fail to teach or suggest the claimed relationship between the percentage change in coercivity and the percentage change in remanence.”

Claims 31 and 41 have been amended to recite “varying a thickness fraction of the thickness of the first magnetic layer to the thickness of the first and second magnetic layers changes the coercivity of the medium a first percentage, changes the remanence of the medium a second percentage, and the first percentage is at least twice the second percentage.” *Chen et al.* fails to teach or suggest this approach, as the Examiner apparently recognizes by allowing claim 21 and stating “Chen et al. fail to teach or suggest the claimed relationship between the percentage change in coercivity and the percentage change in remanence.”

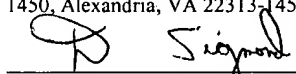
Therefore, Applicant requests that these rejections be withdrawn.

III. OTHER AMENDMENTS

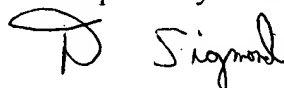
The Claims have been amended to improve clarity. No new matter has been added.

IV. CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Should any issues remain, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on January 2, 2004.	
	<u>1/2/04</u>
David M. Sigmond Attorney for Applicant	Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



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